

Extension of Remarks – 105th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide
From Representative TJ Cox
April 24, 2020

Madam Speaker, today marks the 105th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – an atrocity perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire that killed over 1.5 million Armenians, as well as Assyrians, Greeks, and other Christian peoples. Over a century later, we memorialize this tragedy alongside the vibrant Armenian-American community in the Central Valley and across our great nation. We must never forget the families torn apart, the lives lost, and the immense impact the Armenian Genocide had from 1915 until now.

While we remember the past, we must also recognize the progress we've made. This Congress, both the House and the Senate officially recognized the Armenian Genocide for the first time in history. I am so proud to have been a part of that important milestone for the Armenian community, while reiterating our nation's commitment to acknowledging human rights violations.

It is difficult to find an Armenian today without a family story of genocide. These stories show us just how long-lasting and detrimental the effects of brutality can be. They also highlight the importance of promoting peaceful and constructive relationships between nations, while condemning perpetrators who deny their history of violence.

Whether it be in the past, present, or future, we must take a stand against genocide and genocide denial across the world. The Armenian people do not stand for it, and neither should America. We must reassess our relationships with nations that continue to deny the Armenian Genocide and continue forward with policies of justice and morality.

Thank you, Madame Speaker. I yield my time.